

06/04/09

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51

Dear Ms. Dortch,

An open and accessible Internet is essential to America's future. It will help revitalize our economy, improve our education and health care, engage millions more people in our democracy and give new meaning to freedom of speech. Because these huge communications companies can't control the Internet and its content, they want you in the FCC to do it for them. Piracy? Is it piracy that I pay NETFLIX to be able to watch movies via streaming? I am sure that a portion of the money I pay to Netflix is paid to Sony and the other movie companies as royalties for the usage of their film libraries. I am also sure that a portion of the money I pay to Audio.com every month to listen to books over the Internet is paid to the copyright holders and publishers of those books for the usage of their books. The same is true for all of the other Internet facilities I utilize every day. How is that piracy? There will ALWAYS be those who steal what doesn't belong to them whether it is by co-

pying Video Tapes from one Video Player to another, forging fake DVD's in China to distribute across the world or intercepting downloads of movies (which is the newest way that studios themselves are delivering movies to theaters instead of shipping canisters of celluloid film at a cost of millions of dollars in manufacturing and shipping costs). I am sure that if Sony were in control of the Internet gateway, they would not hinder their own traffic that distributes movies to theaters in the least. So why should they be allowed to transport their movies at high speed while the rest of the American public has to move at donkey cart speeds because we are not privileged enough to be allowed to control Internet traffic speeds? If this is allowed then the phrase "All men are created equal, but some are more equal than others" will really have become true. It is the equivalent of Marie Antoinette's famous "Let them eat cake" statement and will go down in history the same way. I !

am sure that the FCC doesn't want to be remembered for that kind of ca

llous disregard for American Freedoms! Piracy has always happened and will continue to happen.

The FCC has been trying to control this and I hope they will continue to control it since it isn't fair for those who work hard to create new books and movies to have their works stolen. But the solution IS NOT to let the fox guard the henhouse. Allowing COMCAST, Sony, AT&T, et al to control the internet would give them control over properties that they don't own and have no right to control. It would be the same as allowing GM or FORD to control who could be allowed to enter an Interstate Highway, to enforce speed limits and all other traffic rules. We have State, County and Local Police agencies that are responsible for doing that. NOT the manufacturers of the vehicles that use those highways. It is NO DIFFERENT with the Internet. Because Sony's movies travel across the Internet doesn't give

Sony the right to control the traffic flow across the Internet. They are merely another user of a public facility. Today I have a choice of what Internet provider I am able to use and pay that provider for being able to access the internet, what speed I want to use while accessing the internet and what type of content I want to allow to reach my computer from the internet. I resent that people like CEO Michael Lynton of Sony believes he has the right to control WHAT I can access from the Internet, WHEN I am allowed to access it and HOW FAST I am able to get information from the Internet. He has NO MORE RIGHT to control the operation of the Internet than I have. I don't tell him what he can access from the Internet or at what speed he does so and I don't want him or his fellow CEO's to be able to tell me what I can access and how quickly I can access it. The Internet belongs to everyone in the World, not just a chosen few rich people who want to become richer by trying to steal my right of access to the Internet. It is up to the FCC to prevent THEM from privatizing the Internet away from the American computing public and I hope that the people in the FCC who make the decisions on how the Internet is to be made available to the public can see this as clearly as I see it. In crafting the national broadband plan, the Federal Communications Commission must protect Internet users from corporate gatekeepers who seek to keep prices high and speeds slow, limit access to content and stifle innovations and market choice. NET NEUTRALITY MUST be a basic and enforceable rule of the Internet. The plan must also ensure that every American -- regardless of their race, income or location -- can connect to broadband at prices everyone can afford. Allowing powerful corporate interests to dictate the future of modern communications is a mistake that cannot be repeated. Our nation's health in the 21st century requires that the FCC puts a people-powered Internet first or else we will find ourselves as a third-world nation in the technological age. I have spent my entire life since 1969 as a member of the information age, developing the software that has helped to make the Internet a fact of life instead of a dream. I would hate to see my lifework as well as that of 10's of thousands of other dedicated Information Technology participants taken over by the new Robber Barons of the information age.